REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10 and 12-18 are now present in the application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 1 and 8 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10 and 12-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10 and 12-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Higuchi, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0070952. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. As the Examiner will note, independent

claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Independent claim 1 now recites "generating a bus control signal by the IO controller after the host turns the IO controller to a transmitting mode and enables the IO controller to select a data transmission method through an IO controller on the IO card to selectively switch to a first data bus or a second data bus located in the IO card thereby to change data transmitting path between the memory card and the host system." Independent claim 8 now recites "generating a bus control signal by the IO controller after the host turns the IO controller to a transmitting mode and enables the IO controller to select a data transmission method through an IO controller located in the IO card, thereby controlling the switch to selectively directly connect the inserted memory card to one of the first and second data bus." Applicants respectfully submit that the above combinations of steps as set forth in amended independent claims 1 and 8 are not disclosed nor suggested by the reference relied on by the Examiner.

The present application on page 5, lines 12-26 and page 6, lines 1-11 of the specification discloses the operation of the present invention. In particular, the IO card is connected to a host system. A memory card is connected to the IO card. The IO card has a first data bus 413, a second data bus 414 and a switch 411. The switch 411 is controlled by a bus control signal 415 generated by an IO controller 412 to switch between the first data bus 413 and the second data bus 414. When data are transmitting between the IO card (or the memory card) and the host system, the host system 400 enables the controller 412 to select a transmission method by the switch. The first transmission path is passing through the first data bus 413. The IO card and the memory card share all data buses of the IO card. Data are interactively transmitted to the host system. The second transmission path is passing through the second data bus 414. The memory

card employs a portion of the data buses of the IO card 410 to transmit data with the host system 400 (see page 6, lines 8-9). The IO card then uses the remaining data buses to transmit data with the host system. Therefore, the host system is connected to the memory card selectively by the first data bus or the second data bus. The host system can directly transmit data to memory card without via IO card. The host also transmits data to the IO card.

On the other hand, Higuchi in FIG. 7 discloses an IC card which comprises a controller IC 17, a flash memory 15 and a plurality of pin connectors (C1-C13, pin connector of MMC/Multi-Media Card). One of the card adapters shown on FIG. 8-29 (SD, Memory Stick (MS), USB memory card) can be coupled to the IC card and electrically connected to the IC card via the pin connectors of MMC card. The controller IC identifies the pull down voltage on coupled card adapter and the command signal from the host system passes through the coupled card adapter then decided which communication mode being used, referring to flow chart of Figure 30. When the coupled card adapter has a SD card interface assignment, the whole IC card including the coupled card adapter behaved as a SD card. Therefore, the data are transmitted from the host to the IC card via the coupled card adapter.

Therefore, the differences between Higuchi and the present invention are at least as follows:

1. Data transmission paths are different between the present invention and Higuchi. The present invention transmits data from the memory card to the host system can be direct or indirect via the IO card controller 412. The Higuchi transmits data from the memory card (IC card) to the host directly via the coupled card adapter. The data transmission of the present invention is more efficiency than that of the citation.

2. The IO card of the present invention interacts with the host system. The IO card controls the switch by the command from the host system. The coupled card adapter of the citation is not an active device which does not interact with the host system.

3. The host system simultaneously is communicated to both the IO card and the memory card in the present invention. In Higuchi, the host system is connected to the coupled card adapter (passive path) and communicated to the IC card.

Since Higuchi fails to teach each and every limitation of independent claims 1 and 8, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 8 and their dependent claims clearly define over the teachings of Higuchi. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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